



BACK IN BLACK



Friendly Neighborhood<sup>®</sup>  
**SPIDER-MAN**

NAUCK  
STU

# BACK IN BLACK

After revealing his identity to the world during the CIVIL WAR, Peter Parker finds himself and his family targets of the world's most dangerous criminals.

With his Aunt May downed, shot by a sniper's bullet and barely hanging onto life, Peter has donned his old black costume as a dark warning to the world that he's no longer the man he used to be.

## PREVIOUSLY IN *Friendly Neighborhood* **SPIDER-MAN**



While on a date with *Daily Bugle* reporter Betty Brant, Flash Thompson was being mysteriously stalked by Midtown High nurse, the mysteriously named Miss Arrow.

For months the questions around Miss Arrow have grown: From her contact with Spidey's old villain Mysterio (and a mention of her "superiors") to odd-looking stingers grown straight from her wrist.

Miss Arrow has shown the ability to control spiders and used that ability to kidnap Flash, targeting him as a host for hundreds of creatures like herself. Spidey tracks Arrow down to save Flash, but finds himself at her mercy...and her new choice as host.

Meanwhile, at the *Bugle*, J. Jonah Jameson delights in an incriminating web-video of Spider-Man, leading Joe Robertson to publicly berate his boss on his Spidey-obsession. Humiliated, Jonah fires Robbie...

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.













HEY, DAD!  
YOU'RE HOME  
EARLY...!



OH GOD.  
YOU'RE HOME  
EARLY. WHAT  
HAPPENED?



HE'S YOUR SON,  
ALL RIGHT.

JONAH  
FIRED YOUR DAD,  
RANDY.

WHAT?  
WHY?



WAIT, LEMME  
GUESS: JONAH WAS  
CHORTLING OVER THAT  
VIDEO THAT'S ALL OVER  
U-TUBE, AND YOU SNAPPED  
AND TORE HIM A  
NEW ONE.

WELL, HE'S  
YOUR SON TOO, JOE.  
OBVIOUSLY, *DESPITE* MY  
OCCASIONAL CLAIMS  
INVOLVING SIDNEY  
POITIER...



THIS ISN'T A JOKE, MA-  
DAD, ARE YOU GONNA  
TAKE THIS?

I DON'T  
HAVE MUCH CHOICE,  
RANDY. THE MAN CAN  
HIRE AND FIRE WHOM  
HE WANTS.

YOU COULD  
SAY IT WAS  
RACIAL.

LIE, YOU  
MEAN.



IT'S JUST  
UNFAIR THAT PETER  
PARKER SHOULD COST  
YOU YOUR JOB!

PETER? IT  
WASN'T *HIS*  
FAULT.

IT SURE IS.  
IF HE'D NEVER  
UNMASKED, NONE OF  
THIS WOULD HAVE  
HAPPENED.

THIS  
IS ON HIS  
HEAD.





GET  
OFF...MY  
HEAD...!

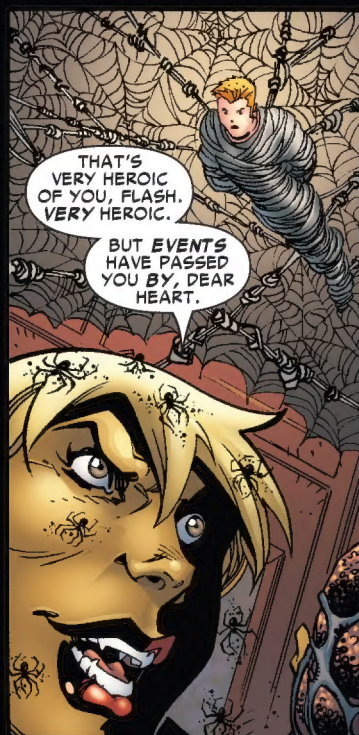
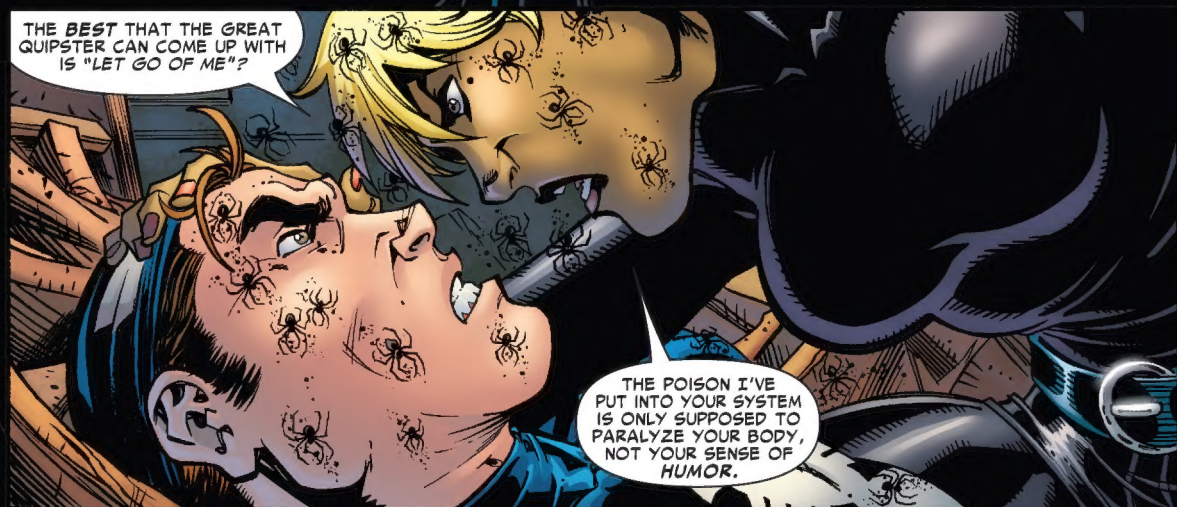
IT'S YOUR  
OWN FAULT, PETER.  
YOU'RE THE ONE  
WHO'S PROLONGING  
THIS.

AND, FRANKLY,  
I HAVE TO SAY THAT  
YOU'RE BEING VERY  
INCONSIDERATE.

# PREDATOR/PREY

|                |               |                      |                |                    |                            |                   |                   |                 |                |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| PETER<br>DAVID | TODD<br>NAUCK | ROBERT<br>CAMPANELLA | JOHN<br>KALISZ | VE'S CORY<br>PETIT | TODD NAUCK<br>et ROB STULL | THOMAS<br>BRENNAN | STEPHEN<br>WACKER | JOE<br>QUESADA  | DAN<br>BUCKLEY |
| WRITER         | PENCILER      | INKER                | COLORIST       | LETTERS            | COVER                      | ASST. EDITOR      | EDITOR            | EDITOR IN CHIEF | PUBLISHER      |















YOU'VE  
BEEN IN MY  
FACE SINCE WE  
MET, LADY.

KA-CHAK

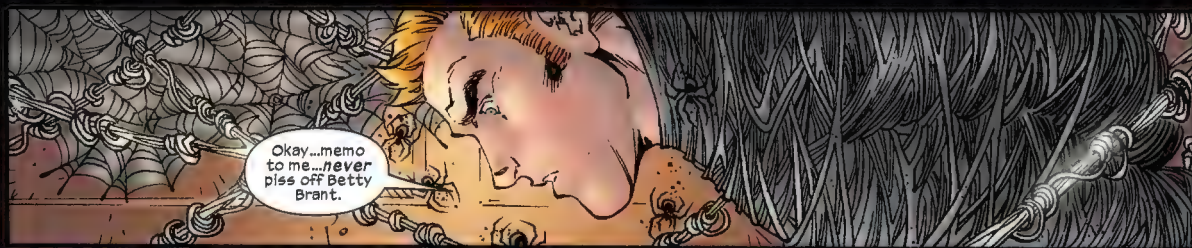
RIGHT  
BACK  
AT'CHA.

BLAM







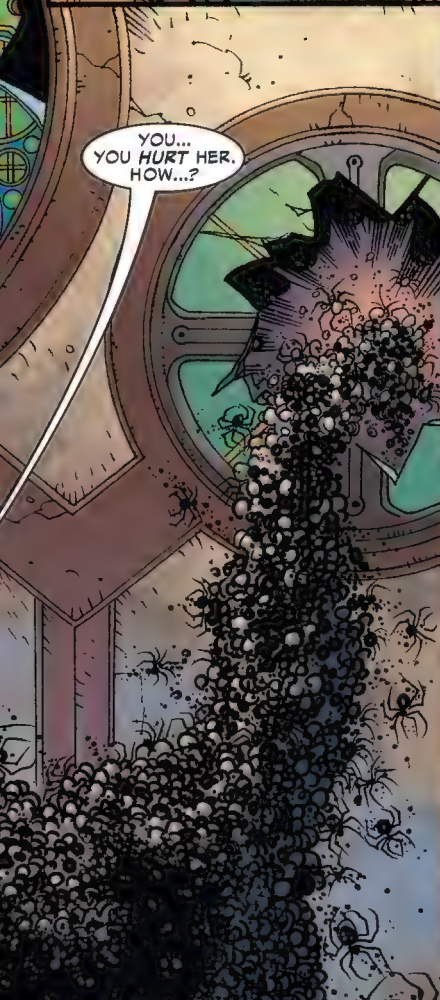


Okay...memo  
to me...*never*  
piss off Betty  
Brant.



BETTY!  
G...GET OUT...  
SHE'LL...

I DON'T  
THINK SHE'S GOING  
TO DO ANYTHING,  
PETER. LOOK.



YOU...  
YOU HURT HER.  
HOW...?



WAIT...ARE  
THOSE...?

SILVER BULLETS WITH CROSSES  
IN THEM. I FIGURED, Y'KNOW, THE  
OPPOSITE OF UNHOLY MIGHT  
WORK, SO WHILE I WAS  
HOME I GRABBED--

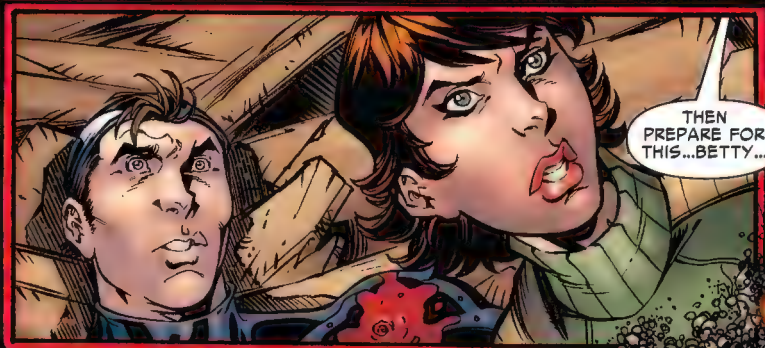


YOU HAVE A  
SHOTGUN AND  
SILVER BULLETS  
AT HOME?!

I'M A  
REPORTER FOR  
THE DAILY BUGLE.  
I'VE SEEN STUFF THAT  
WOULD FREAK OUT  
KOLCHAK.

GIRL'S  
GOTTA BE  
PREPARED.



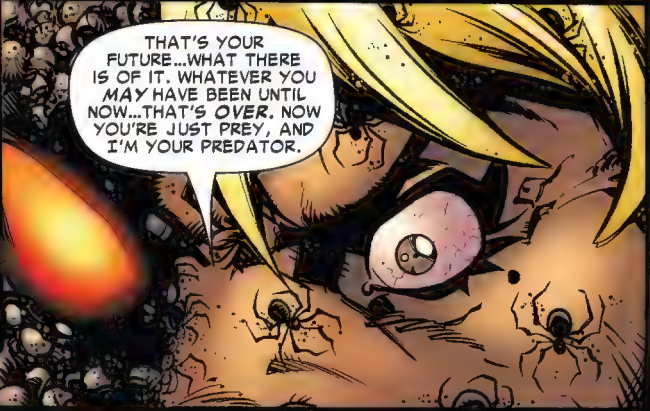


THEN  
PREPARE FOR  
THIS...BETTY...

PREPARE  
TO SLEEP WITH  
THAT THING...UNDER  
YOUR PILLOW...  
...IN FACT...  
PREPARE NOT TO  
SLEEP...AT ALL...  
BECAUSE...  
I'LL BE WATCHING...  
WAITING...



AND AS SOON  
AS YOU CLOSE YOUR  
EYES...YOU'LL HAVE  
SPIDERS UNDER YOUR  
EYELIDS...  
...UP  
YOUR NOSE...  
DOWN YOUR  
THROAT...  
WHEN YOU  
TRY TO SCREAM...  
YOU'LL JUST VOMIT  
UP SPIDERS...



THAT'S YOUR  
FUTURE...WHAT THERE  
IS OF IT. WHATEVER YOU  
MAY HAVE BEEN UNTIL  
NOW...THAT'S OVER. NOW  
YOU'RE JUST PREY, AND  
I'M YOUR PREDATOR.

HA AHA AHA AHA AHA



I think  
I just puked a  
little inside my  
mouth.





OHHHH, NO SHE DOESN'T. SHE DOESN'T GET AWAY AFTER THAT SPEECH.

PETER, NO! YOU'RE--  
I'M FINE. I'VE ALMOST SHAKEN OFF HER VENOM...

"ALMOST" ONLY COUNTS IN HORSESHOES!



WHY IS THAT, ANYWAY? WHO MADE THE HORSESHOE RULES AND DECIDED "ALMOST" SHOULD COUNT FOR SOMETHING?

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, HOW COME CLAMS ARE THE GOLD STANDARD OF HAPPINESS? AND CUCUMBERS, THE ARBITERS OF COOL?

I...I DON'T KN--



OH, HOLD IT! THIS IS WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR ENEMIES! YOU YAK IT UP SO THEY'RE DISTRACTED!

I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY, PETER! I'M CONCERNED--!



AND SHE IS MY ENEMY.  
AND I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.

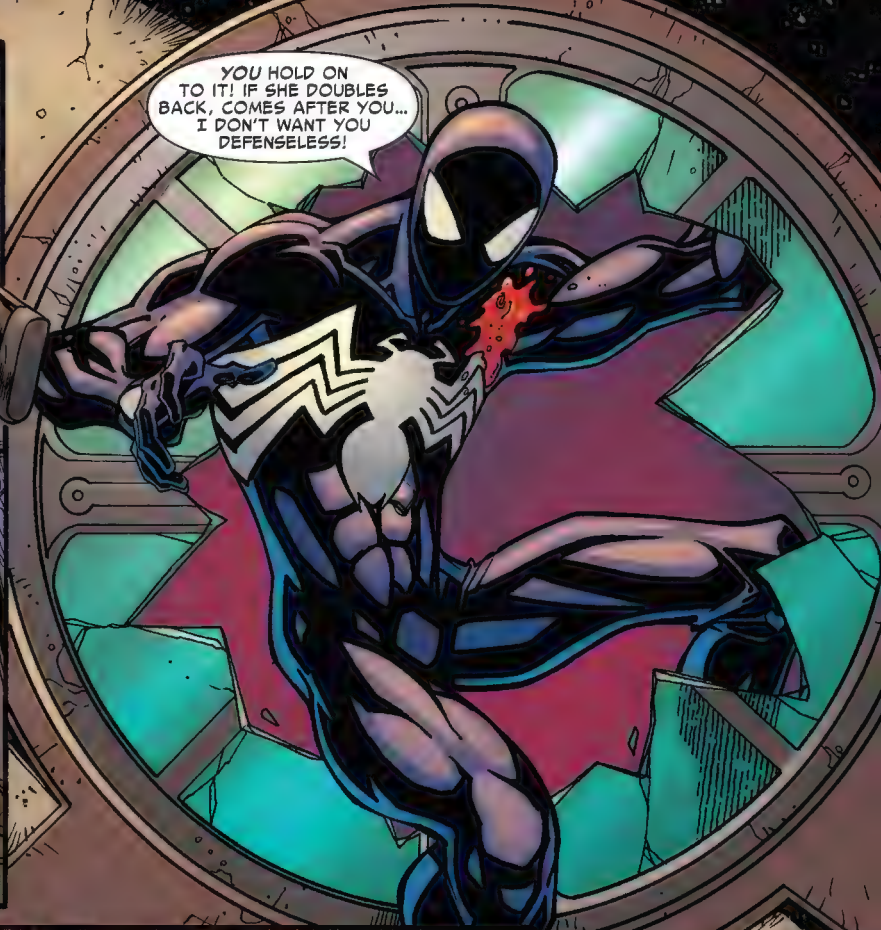


THIS ENDS TONIGHT!





WAIT!  
TAKE THE GUN!  
PETER!



YOU HOLD ON  
TO IT! IF SHE DOUBLES  
BACK, COMES AFTER YOU...  
I DON'T WANT YOU  
DEFENSELESS!

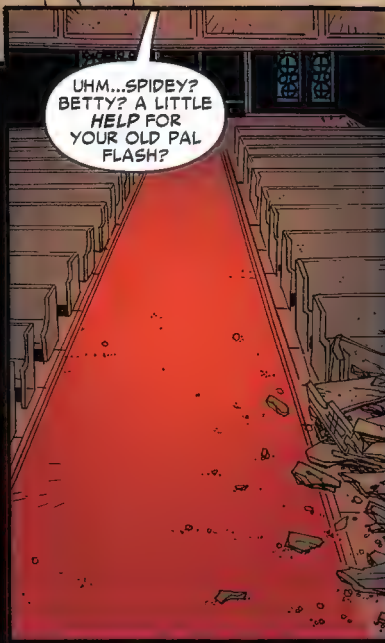


I'LL  
BE FINE!  
I--

DAMMIT,  
PETER! DON'T  
BE SO FREAKING  
PIGHEADED!  
PETER--!



ACHHH!!!  
MEN!!!



UHM...SPIDEY?  
BETTY? A LITTLE  
HELP FOR  
YOUR OLD PAL  
FLASH?



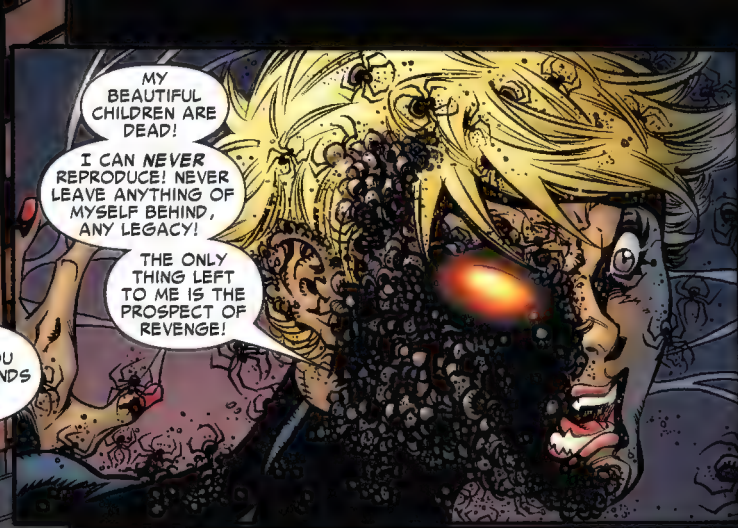
OKAY...  
Y'KNOW WHAT?  
YOU GUYS ARE BUSY.  
I'LL JUST WAIT  
UP HERE.





**ERO!!!**  
...

GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE DONE ENOUGH!



MY BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN ARE DEAD!

I CAN NEVER REPRODUCE! NEVER LEAVE ANYTHING OF MYSELF BEHIND, ANY LEGACY!

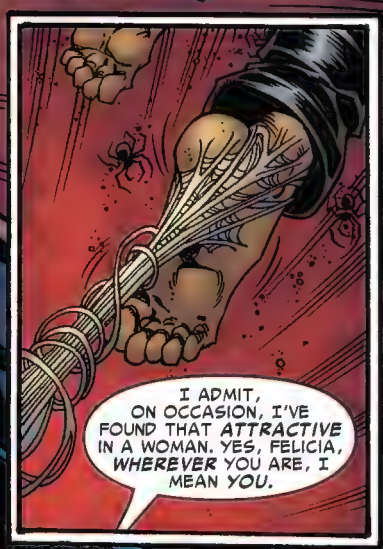
THE ONLY THING LEFT TO ME IS THE PROSPECT OF REVENGE!



IF YOU HAVE A SHRED OF DECENCY, AT LEAST ALLOW ME TO SAVOR THAT FOR A WHILE!




LADY, YOU ARE ONE TWISTED SISTER, YOU KNOW THAT?



I ADMIT, ON OCCASION, I'VE FOUND THAT ATTRACTIVE IN A WOMAN. YES, FELICIA, WHEREVER YOU ARE, I MEAN YOU.





BUT IN  
YOU...NOT  
SO MUCH.


ANYWAY,  
WHEN YOU DID THAT  
WHOLE "WEAK/STRONG"  
RIFF ON ME, YOU FORGOT  
ABOUT "QUITTER"  
VERSUS "NEVER  
GIVES UP!"

WELL,  
GUESS WHICH  
ONE I--

AW,  
PEANUTS.

Y'KNOW,  
EVER SINCE FOX  
CANCELLED "DRIVE,"  
IT'S BEEN ONE PIECE OF  
BAD LUCK AFTER  
ANOTHER.





YOU SHOULD HAVE QUIT WHILE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR BEHIND, PETER! YOU'RE LOOKING UPON THE FACE OF YOUR NATURAL PREDATOR.


I WAS WILLING TO GIVE YOU A RESPITE WHILE I HEALED...

...AND RETURNED TO FULL-STRENGTH...



UNFFFFF!

YOUR DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE...BUT YOU WOULD HAVE HAD MORE TIME WITH YOUR LOVED ONES...



...MAYBE EVEN BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO BID GOOD-BYE TO YOUR FRAIL OLD AUNTIE.

OOOOO... STRIKE A NERVE?

HATE COPING WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU KILL WHATEVER YOU LOVE?





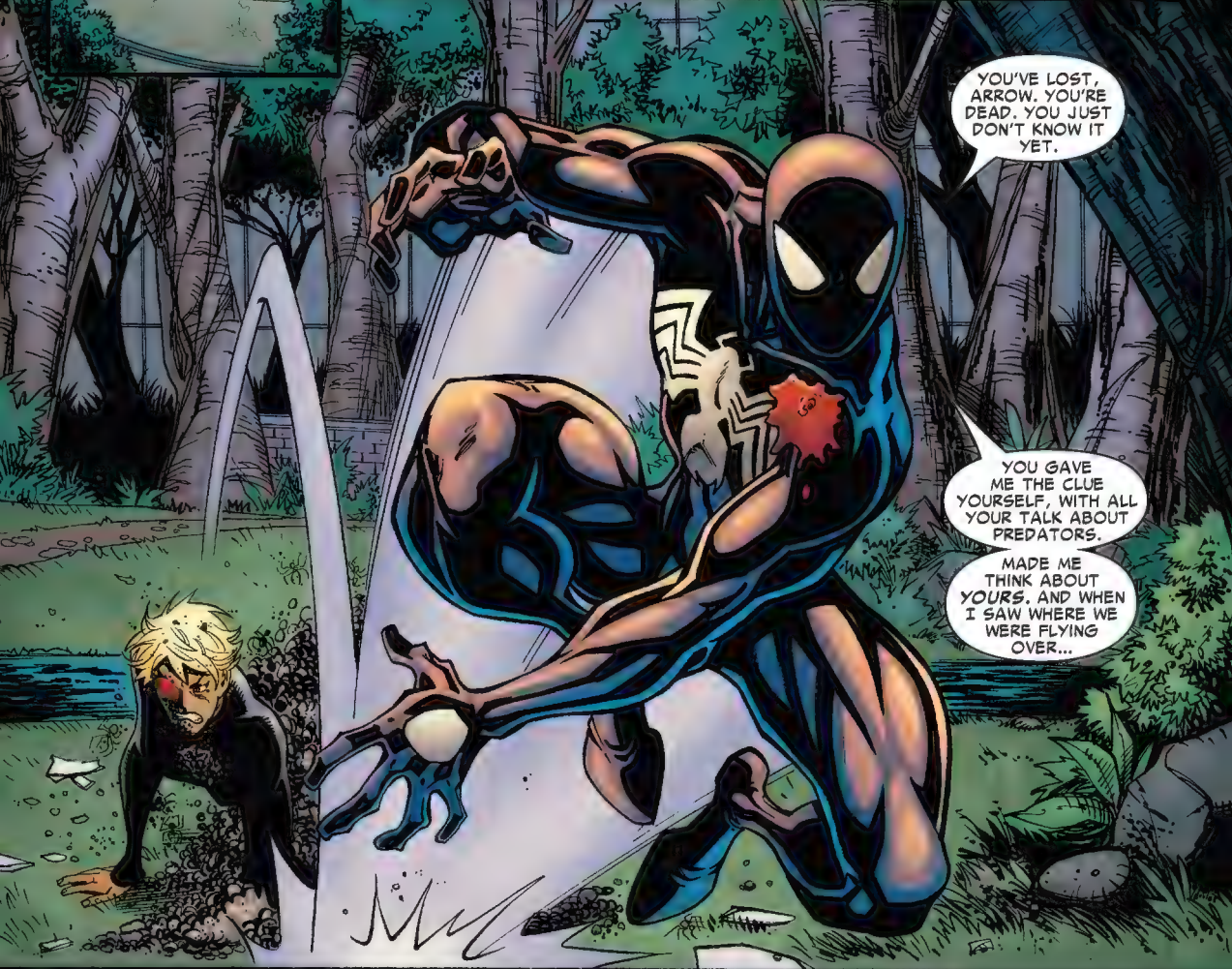
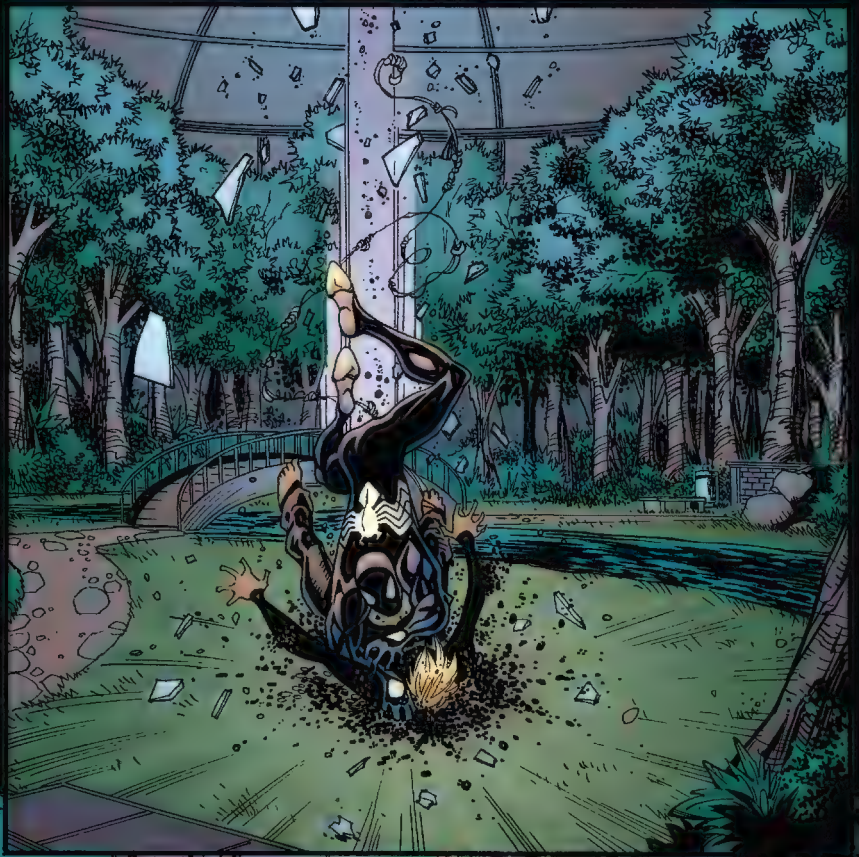
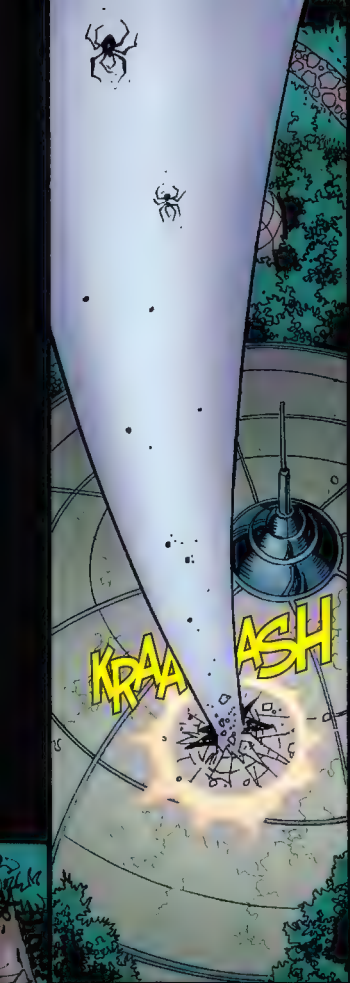
GETTING IN  
RANGE OF ME?  
YOU IDIOT!

YOU CAN'T  
HURT ME WITH THAT!  
WHAT DO YOU THINK  
YOU'RE DOING?

SHOWING  
YOU SOME  
LOVE.

SMACK



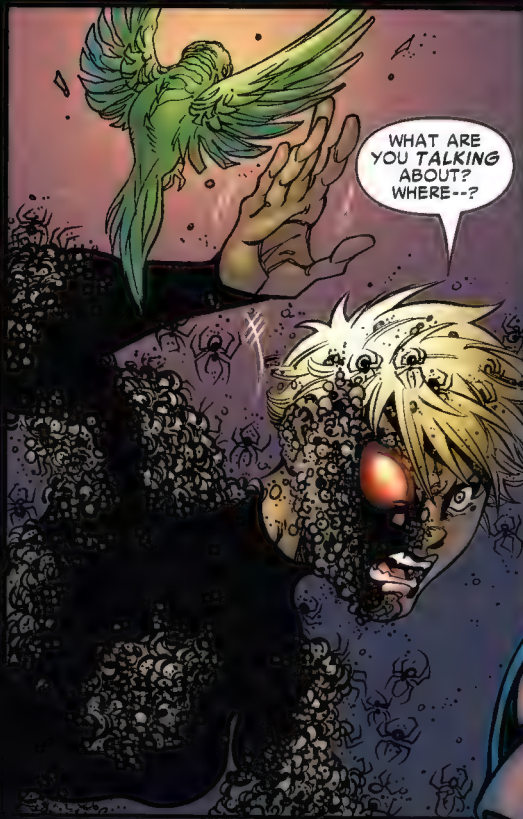


YOU'VE LOST, ARROW. YOU'RE DEAD. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET.

YOU GAVE ME THE CLUE YOURSELF, WITH ALL YOUR TALK ABOUT PREDATORS.

MADE ME THINK ABOUT YOURS. AND WHEN I SAW WHERE WE WERE FLYING OVER...









LOOK ON THE FACE OF YOUR NATURAL PREDATOR, YOU MONSTER.

THE BIRDS MAY BE FEASTING ON YOU...BUT I'M THE ONE WHO SERVED YOU UP ON A PLATTER.



GET AWAY! GET AWAY!!!



AND WHEN YOU WIND UP BACK IN WHATEVER HELL SPAT YOU OUT, YOU TELL THE ONES WHO SENT YOU...

YOU TELL THEM THAT, FOR EVERYTHING THEY'VE PUT ME AND MINE THROUGH...

I'M COMING FOR THEM.

AND I'LL FIND A WAY TO TAKE THEM DOWN.



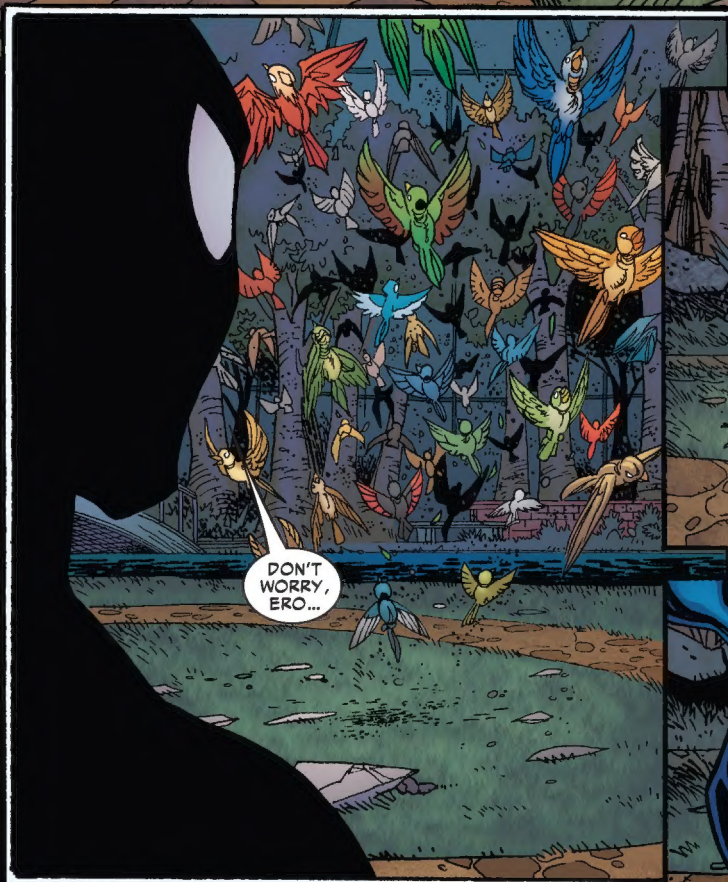
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SPIDER-MAN DOES.

HE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY.





EEEEEE



DON'T  
WORRY,  
ERO...



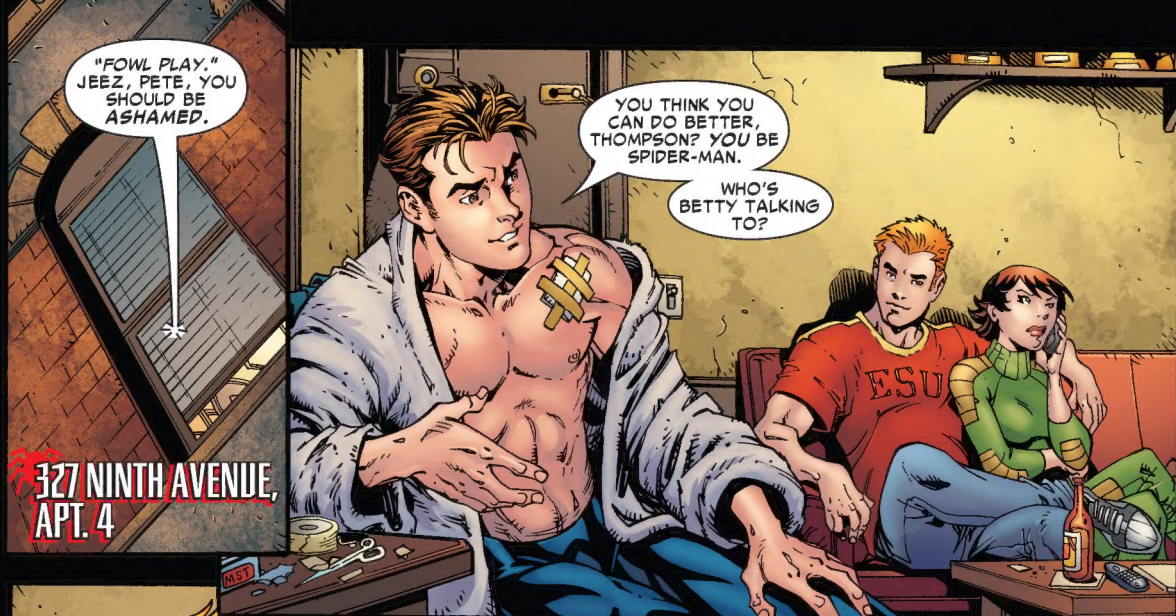
...IF THE  
POLICE COME 'ROUND,  
INVESTIGATING THE  
DISAPPEARANCE OF  
NURSE ARROW...



I'LL TELL  
THEM IT WAS  
FOWL PLAY.  
THAT  
"QUIPSTER"  
ENOUGH FOR  
YOU?

SKRNC





"FOWL PLAY." JEEZ, PETE, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED.

YOU THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER, THOMPSON? YOU BE SPIDER-MAN.

WHO'S BETTY TALKING TO?

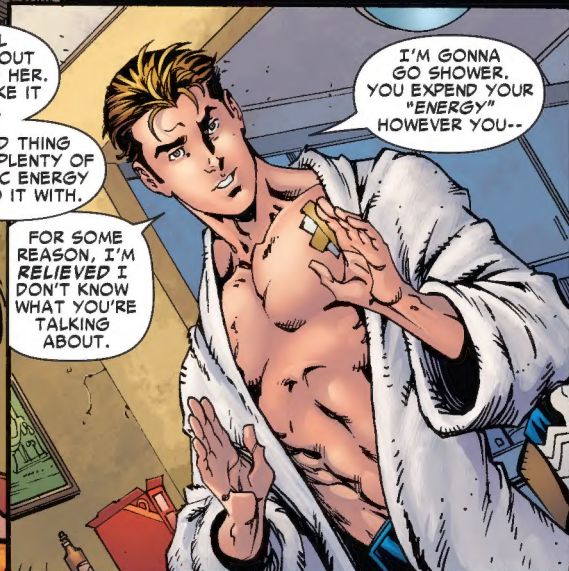
327 NINTH AVENUE, APT. 4



CHECKING HER VOICE MESSAGES.

MAN, I FEEL SO LOUSY ABOUT HOW I TREATED HER. I WANT TO MAKE IT UP TO HER.

GOOD THING I GOT PLENTY OF TANTRIC ENERGY TO DO IT WITH.



I'M GONNA GO SHOWER. YOU EXPEND YOUR "ENERGY" HOWEVER YOU--

FOR SOME REASON, I'M RELIEVED I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



MY... GOD.

WHAT IS IT?

NO WONDER MY VOICE MAIL-BOX WAS FULL.

BETTY, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, WHAT--?



LIKE HELL. I'M GETTING SHOWERED, CHANGED...

...AND THEN JONAH JAMESON AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A LONG OVERDUE...CHAT.



JONAH FIRED ROBBIE ROBERTSON. THEY HAD THIS HUGE ARGUMENT ABOUT... ABOUT YOU, PETER...

AND HE FIRED HIM. JUST LIKE THAT. ROBBIE'S OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAIL

Hey, Spider-fans! Lots going on here at Spider-Man HQ as we ramp up to some big, big changes. The biggest of which is that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN will soon be coming at you THREE times every month! Yes, THREE! Two was too few! Four seemed like overkill. Five was one more than four! So... three it is!

Unfortunately, though, it means that this fine book you're holding will soon wrap up its run to make room on our ever-packed publishing schedule. Issue #24 is our last issue and it's part of ONE MORE DAY, the dramatic wrap-up to J. Michael Straczynski's six-year run on the wall crawler (Peter and Todd take leave with #23, so we'll have more news on them next month). If you care at all about the fate of Peter, MJ, and May, you're going to want to catch it.

So, like I said, lots of stuff happening and because of that, I'm turning this page over to our intern, Sam Roberts. We're training him to be a lean, mean Marvel machine and he's been helping out a lot on this book the last few months. Be kind to him and I'll catch ya in 30 days. Take 'er away, Sam.

Thanks, Steve! And might I add that you sure look great today? (Good job, Sam. Just like we rehearsed.--SW)

Like Steve said, I've been charged with making sure that all your letters get the answers they deserve. So on that note, let's get started!

Dear FNSM,

Thank Hera, finally, Peter David and Todd Nauck are a team again!!! Plus you throw in Spider-Man and it's pure gold. I've been a huge fan of Peter and Todd since Young @#\*^\$ (that's how I'm supposed to state it, right? Like it's a vulgarity?) Anyways, I'M buying as long as Peter David and Todd Nauck are supplying.

Oh, but if Peter could kill off Flash Thompson, that would be great. Or turn him into a villain!!! We are short one Scorpion these days. Flash just isn't the most interesting supporting cast member.

Make Mine Marvel,  
Joseph Urbick

Glad to hear you're digging the new team, Joseph! I'm not too sure about killing Flash off. That sounds like a ploy the Distinguished Competition would try! We got pretty close these past couple issues, though, right? I'll admit, I wasn't always the biggest Flash fan myself, but the guy's kinda grown on me. Besides, don't you think Spidey could use a solid friend right about now?

As for Flash as the Scorpion, I doubt it. You never know, though... there ARE a lot of alternate universes out there, Joseph. Maybe there's one where Flash didn't stop bullying Peter in high school and traded his football jacket for a big green mechanical tail? Hey, Wacker! I got an idea...!

Hey guys,

I have to say, it's good to see Deb Whitman again, and even better to see her friends with Betty Brant. (Betty's a reporter now? Cool!)

What's up with Flash ratting out Peter? Or is that another one of those misleading-looking things?

I kind of hope so. Flash just became cool again, what with the offer for the couch and all. I giggled at Flash's using his knowledge of Peter to score points with the nurse--typical! :-)

In general, I tend to be leery of "bold, new directions." But this manages to be way different. You're keeping the essence of the character while throwing him into the exact situation he never wanted, but yet he got there very plausibly. (May's line about responsibility is still the one I quote to friends who are skeptical about Pete's outing--the one where she says something like, "Responsibility doesn't mean you walk away when someone asks, 'Who did that?'" )

Just like joining the Avengers--all you really need is one good story where he appreciates the value of teamwork ("Breakout") and voila. In the same vein, I kind of figured that Civil War would be the story that sours him on teamwork. Yeah, here we go, I can almost hear Pete saying, "Groups suck after all, see ya"--but wait, I'm not actually hearing that, am I? COOL! (Although a REAL skeptic would say that Civil War was just a ploy to get him back in the black suit in time for the third movie...kidding!)

It's really been gratifying, as a long-time Spider-Man fan, seeing Peter's friends rally behind him, and also seeing him now have something in common with someone like the Sandman--that was also a nice scene. (Okay, correct me if I'm wrong here, but didn't Sandy go straight a while back? Or am I hallucinating that too?) I'm looking forward to seeing more of Betty--remember, you promised.

Louise Pare-Lobinske  
Crawfordville, FL

See, Joseph? Some people care about Flash! But seriously, I just want to say wow, Louise! We're honored that you took the time to write us such a long and thoughtful letter. I hope you don't mind, but I had to cut it down so we had room for all the other letters! About Betty, don't worry. I snuck a peek at some of the new stuff (don't tell Steve!) and you'll definitely be seeing more of her! (Oh and by the by, Steve says Sandman did go straight for a bit, but it didn't really stick.)

Dear Steve,

I enjoy the storyline you've created so far for Spider-Man in ASM, FNSM, etc. Although many of my friends believe the only reason he's "Back in Black" is because of the recent release of the Spider-Man 3 movie.

1. Is that true?

2. Will we be seeing Eddie Brock in the upcoming Amazing Spideys?

I'd really appreciate an answer for the first question. But you could just answer the second question by sayin' "Eh! Who knows?" Anyway like millions before me have put it so well, "Keep up the good work!!!" (We know you will and are) and don't go easy on the originality. (That one is mine.) Like a great man once put it (he still does), Nuff Said!!!

Ahmed Rachedi  
Montreal, Canada

Hah! "Back in Black" is just a tie-in with the movie? Why does everyone keep asking us

about that? Next you're going to tell me that nerd Peter Parker is actually Spider-Man... oh wait. Well, if you ask me, who cares why the black suit's back? There's no denying that it looks totally sweet and has been gathering dust in Pete's closet for far too long.

Also, if you haven't been reading Sensational Spider-Man, go check it out. I think you'll find plenty of Eddie there.

Dear FNSM-

Awesome comics! Spider-Man is, by far, the greatest super hero ever imagined! But I've been looking for the really old comics to complete my collection and a few things caught my eye:

1.) Why are there so many different titles? (Amazing, Spectacular, Web of, Friendly Neighborhood, etc.)

2.) Peter has seemed depressed since Amazing Spider-Man # 524. For readers like me, who feel the same emotions as the main character, it's hard to read all this. My suggestion is that you have at least 24 issues of one-on-one battles between Spidey and his classic rivals, ending in the death of one of his old, no longer used villains like Electro or the Vulture.

3.) I really miss the red and blue/black costume. I'm not referring to the "Back in Black" saga, I meant Iron Man's new version. After the "Back in Black" story, could you bring back the classic threads?

From, Spidey's # 1 fan,

Justin Carter

Well, Justin, as Steve mentioned, there won't be so many different Spider-Man titles in a few months, but in short, people like comics with Spider-Man in them. It's been that way since the character was created. Way I look at it, as long as people like us want to see Peter Parker in action, Marvel will keep feeding us.

As to your other points: If I've learned anything from Spider-Man comics, it's that that dude can bounce back from anything. I dunno if we'll be killing off a villain, though. (Besides, they always come back anyway!)

As for the suit, I passed the suggestion on to Steve. He said he'd think about it. Yep, I hate it when he gets all coy, too.

Well, gang, it looks like we're already out of space. So we'll see you next time when Steve returns from his top secret super-hero stuff and I go back to getting him coffee!

Until then, keep it real.

--SAM



BRAD JOHANSEN  
PRODUCTION

TOM BRENNAN  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

STEPHEN WACKER  
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA  
CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY  
PUBLISHER

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN

c/o MARVEL COMICS

417 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED PLEASE  
LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

E-MAIL:  
MH0005@MARVEL.COM  
MARK E-MAIL  
"OKAY TO PRINT"

JJJ  
VS.  
SPIDEY!